

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer-assisted~~implemented~~ method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a server via a distributed communications network a request from an organizer to start a chapter;

creating at the server the chapter, wherein the chapter corresponds to a topic and a geographic locale;

receiving at the server via the distributed communications network from a plurality of users a respective same selection of a the topic from a plurality of predefined topics;

receiving a at the server via the distributed communications network from the plurality of users a respective same indication of a the geographic locale;

providing an indication, receiving at the server via the distributed communications network from the plurality of users a respective same selection of one the chapter of a plurality of chapters, based on the topic and the geographic locale, wherein the chapters have respective members; and

adding the plurality of users to the chapter as respective members;

automatically scheduling an in person gathering for the chapter at one venue of a plurality of venues receiving at the server via the distributed communications network from the organizer a selection of a date, time, and physical venue for an in-person gathering of the members of the chapter, wherein the physical venue is associated with the geographic locale; and

transmitting from the server via the distributed communications network to the members data corresponding to the date, time, and physical venue.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the scheduling of the in-

~~person gathering comprises selecting selection of the venue is~~ based on a characteristic of the topic.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~scheduling of the in-person gathering comprises selecting selection of the venue is~~ based on an input from a member of the chapter.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 3, wherein the input comprises votes from ~~ones of~~ one or more of the respective members of the chapter indicated as planning to attend the in-person gathering, and the selection of the venue is based on a majority of the votes.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 4, wherein, when the number of votes from one or more of the ~~ones of~~ respective members of the chapter indicated as planning to attend the gathering exceeds a venue attendance threshold, more than one venue for the gathering is automatically selected.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 3, wherein the input comprises a venue indication from ~~an organizing member of the respective members of the chapter the organizer~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving attendance plan indications, from one or more of ~~ones of~~ the respective members of the chapter, indicating a plan to attend the in-person gathering.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 7, further comprising automatically

the step of canceling the in-person gathering when the number of received attendance plan indications does not exceed a predetermined attendance threshold.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the predetermined attendance threshold is set by ~~an organizing member of the respective members of the chapter the organizer~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of sending a reminder to the respective members of the chapter after the scheduling of the in-person gathering and before the in-person gathering.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the reminder is sent only to one or more of ~~ones~~ of the respective members of the chapter indicated as planning to attend the in-person gathering.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of sending a feedback request, related to the in-person gathering, to the respective members of the chapter indicated before the in-person gathering as planning to attend, after the in-person gathering.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 12, wherein the feedback request is adapted configured to obtain quantitative information regarding an actual number of attendees of the in-person gathering.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 13, wherein the feedback request is adapted configured to obtain qualitative information regarding the in-person gathering.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a at least one of the users with a capability to search the plurality of predetermined topics using a keyword.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising providing a at least one of the users with a capability to display the plurality of predetermined topics in a hierarchical manner.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the an indication of the chapter is provided to a at least one of the users in response to the user selection by the at least one user of the topic and the user indication of the geographic locale.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the at least one user receiving the indication of the chapter is indicated as one of the respective members of the chapter.

Claims 19-24 (Cancelled)

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of accepting a request to automatically send a user a notification of the creation of a new chapter relating to the geographic locale and the topic.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the user indication of a geographic locale comprises one of a postal code and a city name.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~user indication of a~~ geographic locale comprises latitude and longitude related information.

Claim 28 (Cancelled)

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving an indication from one member of the ~~respective~~ members of the chapter that the one member is a hosting member for the in-person gathering.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The method for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, as set forth in claim 29, further comprising the step of automatically generating for the hosting member one of a sign, a banner, and a nametag for the in-person gathering.

Claims 31-32 (Cancelled)

Claim 33 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the physical venue is within the geographic locale.

Claim 34 (New): A system for organizing in-person gatherings of topic-related interest, the system comprising a computer having a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor of the computer, causes the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving a request from an organizer to start a chapter;

creating the chapter, wherein the chapter corresponds to a topic and a geographic locale;

receiving from a plurality of users a respective same selection of the topic from a plurality of predefined topics;

receiving from the plurality of users a respective same indication of the geographic locale;

receiving from the plurality of users a respective same selection of the chapter;

adding the plurality of users to the chapter as respective members;
receiving from the organizer a selection of a date, time, and physical venue for an in-person gathering of the members of the chapter, wherein the physical venue is associated with the geographic locale; and
transmitting to the members data corresponding to the date, time, and physical venue.

Claim 35 (New): The system of claim 34, wherein the physical venue is within the geographic locale.